

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are amended herein. No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the specification, e.g., paragraphs [0040] et seq., which discuss Fig.3, the embodiment relating to a bilayer structure, characterizes the total amount of tin in the bilayer as falling in the claimed range, not the amount of the tin in an outer tin-plating layer, as presently claimed.

In response, claim 3 is amended herein to clarify the claim language, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as discussed during a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1 and 4-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that in claim 1, with respect to layer "(i-1)", it is unclear whether the areal densities of both zinc and nickel must fall within the claimed range when both nickel and zinc are present.

In response, claim 1 is amended herein to clarify the claim language, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as discussed during a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 4-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner also indicates that claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. The claims are amended as discussed above and the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

IV. Conclusion

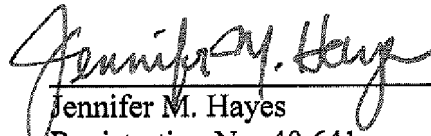
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. App. Ser. No. 10/507,013

Q83539

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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